NOVACON 5

novacon 5

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

7th-8th-9th November 1975 **Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham**

GUEST OF HONOUR

DAN MORGAN

****

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Cover by EDDIE JONES

Convention badges and NOVA Award designed by Ray Bradbury from an original idea by Eddie Jones.

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Convention booklet designed and produced by Laurence H Miller and Rog Peyton. Printed by Horton Printing Ltd., Birmingham.

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HIGH DESTINY

the exciting new novel

by DAN MORGAN

novacon 5 Guest of Honour

£2.50 6 November 1975

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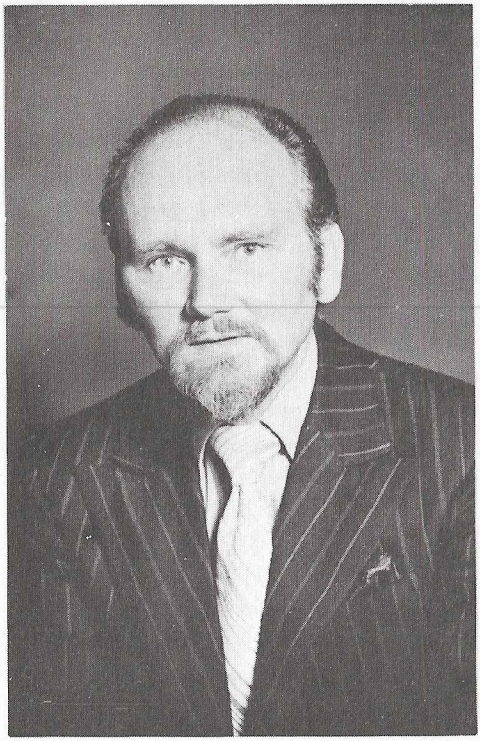
DAN MORGAN



Dan Morgan - well-known guitarist and composer - author of GUITAR - an excellent book for beginners (Advt.)

- 'bon viveur' and raconteur - albeit with a slightly warped sense of humour

- expert in men's (and unisex) high fashion - owner of that Mecca of the budding 'Beau Brummels' of the country - Dan Morgan Ltd., 1 Chapel Lane, Spalding,Lincs. (Advt.)

- experienced traveller and lover of the Iberian peninsula and all its associations

- husband of dark, vivacious Georgie who is worth the price of admission by herself - interior designer with a flair all her own - cook par excellence.

Oh! Dan, Dan, you lucky man!

Before I forget, he does write science fiction on the side.

Juniper.

MEET DAN MORGAN

DOREEN ROGERS

Having been partly responsible for bringing Dan back into fandom, no-one was more pleased than I when it was announced that he was to be the Guest of Honour at NOVACON 5. I think my comment was "And about time too!"

Dan started writing SF in his teens and if you are fortunate enough to have early copies of NEW WORLDS you will see his first attempts which showed a maturity far beyond his years. I remember reading THE UNINHIBITED when serialised by John Carnell in NEW WORLDS - I read and enjoyed this not knowing that Dan lived ten miles up the road from me. Discovering this and armed with an introduction from Tom boardman, I presented myself to Dan (and to show the stuff he's made of, he never even flinched when I bore down on him like a galleon in full sail). I found that he'd just started writing again after a break of about 10 years - an extremely funny novel called THE RICHEST CORPSE IN SHOW BUSINESS which had me chuckling and imagining Norman Wisdom as the protagonist in a film version! In fact, an option for filming was taken but never used.

I've been fortunate in being in at the birth of Dan's 'Mind' novels (and others) having read them in manuscript form and enjoying them all immensely. Dan collaborated on the 'Venturer 12' series with the late John Hynam ('Kippax') - many pleasant evenings have been spent when I've sat and been involved with them discussing ideas.

Dan writes original, well-constructed stories - not for him the sloppiness or unreadability of the so-called avante-garde. Often his stories are slightly downbeat -life is these days - but there is always hope around the corner. To my mind the best novel he has written is yet to be published (Publishers take note!) and I've promised not to reveal anything about it until after it is published. Trish and I fought so much over the original manuscript that we had to patch it up before returning it!

Dan is not only an excellent writer - he is a well-read and cultured man, kind, thoughtful and a good raconteur - if I called for an hour or so, I would not leave Spalding until the early hours of the next morning!

DAN & GEORGIE
MORGAN WISH YOU
A MIND~BOGGLING
CON....

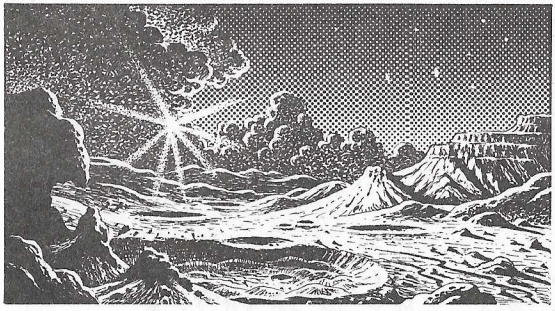
....AND THANKS
FOR HAVING US.

For many years he lived part of the year in Spain and we were fortunate enough to spend a holiday there with Dan and his wife Georgie to show us the real Spain. And whilst I think of it do not forget Georgie(which would be difficult as she is so beautiful) because without her, Dan would not be the person he is today. She has been on hand to encourage him in his writing, in his business and in his music, set up drinks for us and welcome a 'stray female', as I was then, and take me to her heart.

I can't say more without appearing effusive but read Dan's stories, listen to him talk, put a guitar in his hand and find my favourite person.

At the time of writing this I do not know whether or not I will be able to attend NOVACON 5 but if not, I shall be with you all in spirit and when you speak Dan, I shall hear you and raise my glass in silent toast.

Doreen Rogers



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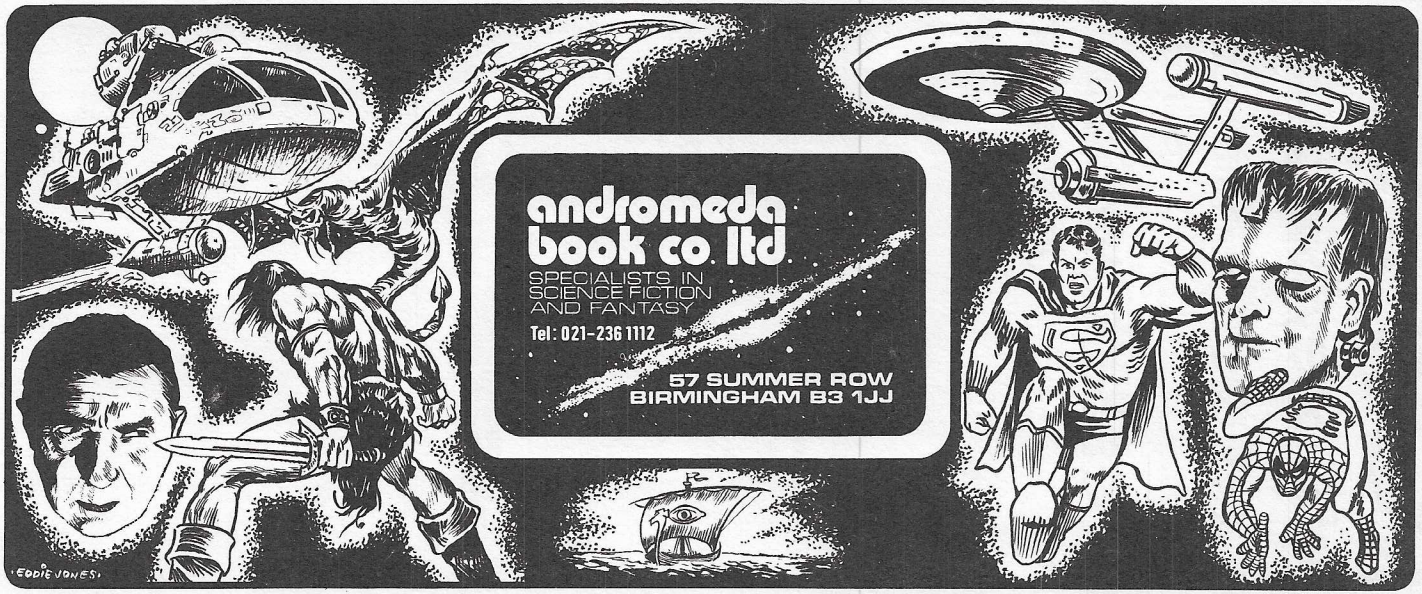

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WIGAN PIER IN '84 WON'T TAKE THAT MANY!

by the Convention Chairman

Welcome to NOVACON 5.

One thing you will no doubt notice about this year's convention is that there's a lot more people around than last year. At Easter in Coventry there were also 'a lot more people around than last year'. The same thing was said at last year's NOVACON, and at Newcastle.

The increase in popularity of science fiction may be witnessed by the number of new publishers entering the SF market, by the number of them wishing to support conventions through advertising in the programme booklets and by the number of attendees at conventions.

Have you looked through recent programme booklets and noted the number of registrations listed therein? The last few year's figures for Easter conventions have been: 233 (1972), 303 (1973), 332 (1974), 416 (1975) with similar increases at NOVACONs - 144 (1972), 146 (1973), 211 (1974) and as at the time of writing we have just over 270 for this convention. Add to these figures, the late registrations and people who attend for one day only and the figures increase dramatically - I believe we had well over 300 at NOVACON 4 and the figure almost touched 600 at Easter. A far cry from the conventions of the fifties where registration was 7/6 (free to females!) and 100 attendees were a dream of the future! Possibly someone ought to correlate all the figures, plot a graph and find out just how many we can expect for the World Con in '79 (providing we win the bid of course).

But let's quit worrying about the past and the future - let's think of the present - NOVACON 5. We hope that we've put together a programme in which everyone will find something of interest. We've been fortunate in having a hotel management that has put themselves out to assist in organising the type of convention we want and we're sure that everything will run smoothly at the Con itself. I, as chairman, have been lucky to have a hard-working committee to do all the work that I've been too lazy to do... Arline for typing all the letters and making the coffee.. Pauline for looking after the registrations and the cash... Robert for looking after all the important small items that tend to get overlooked - badges,etc.... Ray for designing and making the NOVA Award,designing the Con Badge and looking after all the 'arty' items... Laurence for doing the donkey-work on the Programme Booklet as well as running around collecting things when I was unable to do it... and to all of them for their suggestions, discussions & decisions on all aspects of the Con. Thank you.

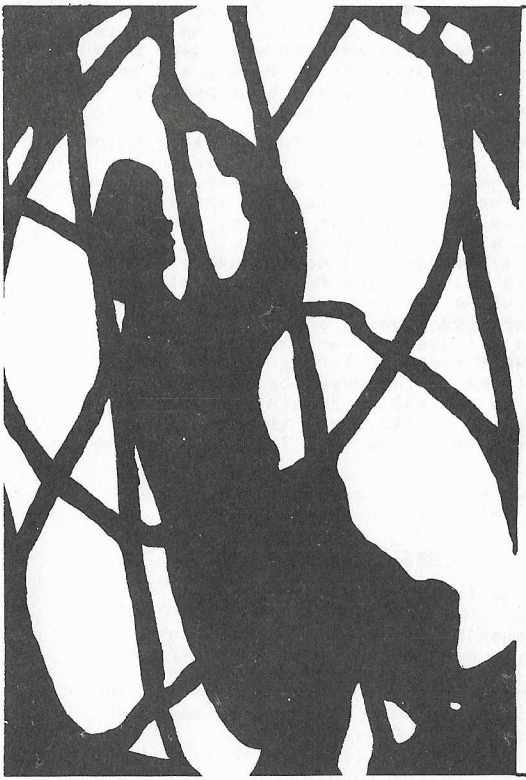
We've now done the bulk of our work - it's now up to you to get in there and enjoy yourselves and make NOVACON 5 a success.

Rog Peyton

PS And don't forget CURRYCON 1 - the first Black Country Con.
Organised to help raise funds for the Britain is Fine in '79' bid, it had to be cancelled when the organisers (?) set the date for February 29th thinking that 1975 was divisible by 4 and therefore a leap year! Then re-organised for September 31st, it was again cancelled as the Con Hall was being used for the Easter Party of the Old Hill Pidgeon and Whippet Racers Club. Now they've decided that as 1976 is divisible by 4 the date will be February 30th.
Guests of Honour remain the same - Enoch & Eli, who achieved ~~world-wide~~ very local fame with their best-selling FOUNDRY TRILOGY (reached number twenty-seven in the Tipton Top Sellers).

They recently returned from a Mediterranean cruise undertaken in a barge borrowed from Sludgemoor Lane canal docks. The cruise got off to a bad start when they discovered that the horse couldn't swim but after rigging up a sail from Eli's handkerchief they got underway and according to Enoch the rest of the trip was fairly uneventful allowing for the fact that the wind was in the wrong direction and they had to go via the Menai Straits! Both send their regards to NOVACON 5 and it has been rumoured that they may actually attend this year - look out for that spectacle...as well as the publication of their latest novel - PIGEON DUQUESNE.

The registration for CURRYCON 1 was two and a tanner but due to inflation the new charge is 'alf a quid. Anyone wishing to register should see Ray Bradbury or myself during the weekend.



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AND MAKE SURE WE DON'T FADE AWAY

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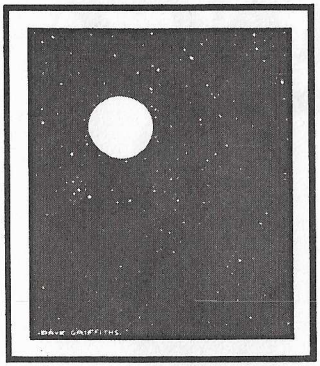
SF

ROGER ZELAZNY
To Die in Italbar

A feverish intergalactic search for the shadowy Mr. H, who, it seems, is capable either of the saviour's healing touch or the leper's clasp of death, is sparked off when whole worlds are suddenly threatened by mysterious, raging pandemics. The stakes are high – no less than power over life and death – and the most gifted minds of civilization join the hunt. Among them are the Galactic Police, who seek to destroy H; a brilliant, telepathic pathologist determined to unlock his secret; and the embittered sole survivor of a gutted earth, Commander Malacar,



whose plan is to use H as trump card in a daring bid for the empire.

Mr Zelazny, who holds an impressive collection of Hugo and Nebula awards, has won an international reputation as one of SF's freshest and most inventive authors. This new book has already proved one of his most popular ever with readers in the USA, and will now delight his many other fans throughout the world.

For Autumn publication. £2.75

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THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS

OF DAN MORGAN

CEE TEE MAN
(Panther 181, 1955, 144pp, pb 1/6) (Hamilton, 1955, 144pp, hc 6/-)

THE UNINHIBITED
(Digit R352, 1961, 160pp, pb 2/6; R771, 1963, 2/6)

THE RICHEST CORPSE IN SHOW BUSINESS
(Compact F299, 1966, 190pp, pb 3/6)

THE NEW MINDS
1st volume in 'Mind' series (Corgi GS7630, 1967, 158pp, pb 3/6) (Avon V2271, 1969, 192pp, pb 75c)

A THUNDER OF STARS
in collaboration with John Kippax. 1st volume in 'Venturer 12' series. (Macdonald 02465, 1968, 159pp, hc 21/-) (Ballantine 01922, 1970, 200pp, pb 75c) (Pan 24098, 1974, 200pp, pb 40p)

THE SEVERAL MINDS
2nd in 'Mind'series (Corgi 08152, 1969, 190pp, pb 4/-) (Avon V2302, 190pp, pb 75c)

THE MIND TRAP
3rd volume in 'Mind' series (Corgi 08431, 1970, 159pp, pb 20p) (Avon V2323, 1970, 189pp, pb 75c)

INSIDE
(Corgi 08845, 1971, 158pp, pb 25p) (Berkley 02734, 1974, 156pp, pb 95c)

SEED OF STARS
in collaboration with John Kippax. 2nd volume in 'Venturer 12' series (Ballantine 02503, 1972, 210pp, pb 95c) (Pan 24099, 1974, 210pp, pb 40p)

THE NEUTRAL STARS
in collaboration with John Kippax. 3rd volume in 'Venturer 12' series. (Ballantine 03086, 1973, 215pp, pb $1·25) (Pan 24250, 215pp, 1975, pb 40p)

THE HIGH DESTINY
(Berkley 02434, 1973, 192pp, pb 75c) (Millington 08600-44-3, 1975, 192pp, hc £2·50)

THE COUNTRY OF THE MIND
4th volume in 'Mind' series (Corgi 09626, 1975, 189pp, pb 40p)

Checklist compiled by Roger G Peyton.

PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME ITEMS WILL ALL BE HELD IN THE CONVENTION HALL WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION OF THE BANQUET WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE HOTEL DINING ROOM

FRIDAY

7.00pm	NOVACON 5 Chairman, Rog Peyton welcomes and introduces.
7.15pm	FILM: SECONDS - black & white starring Rock Hudson and directed by John Frankenheimer. USA 1966.
9.00pm	PETER WESTON'S FILTHY PICTURE SHOW.

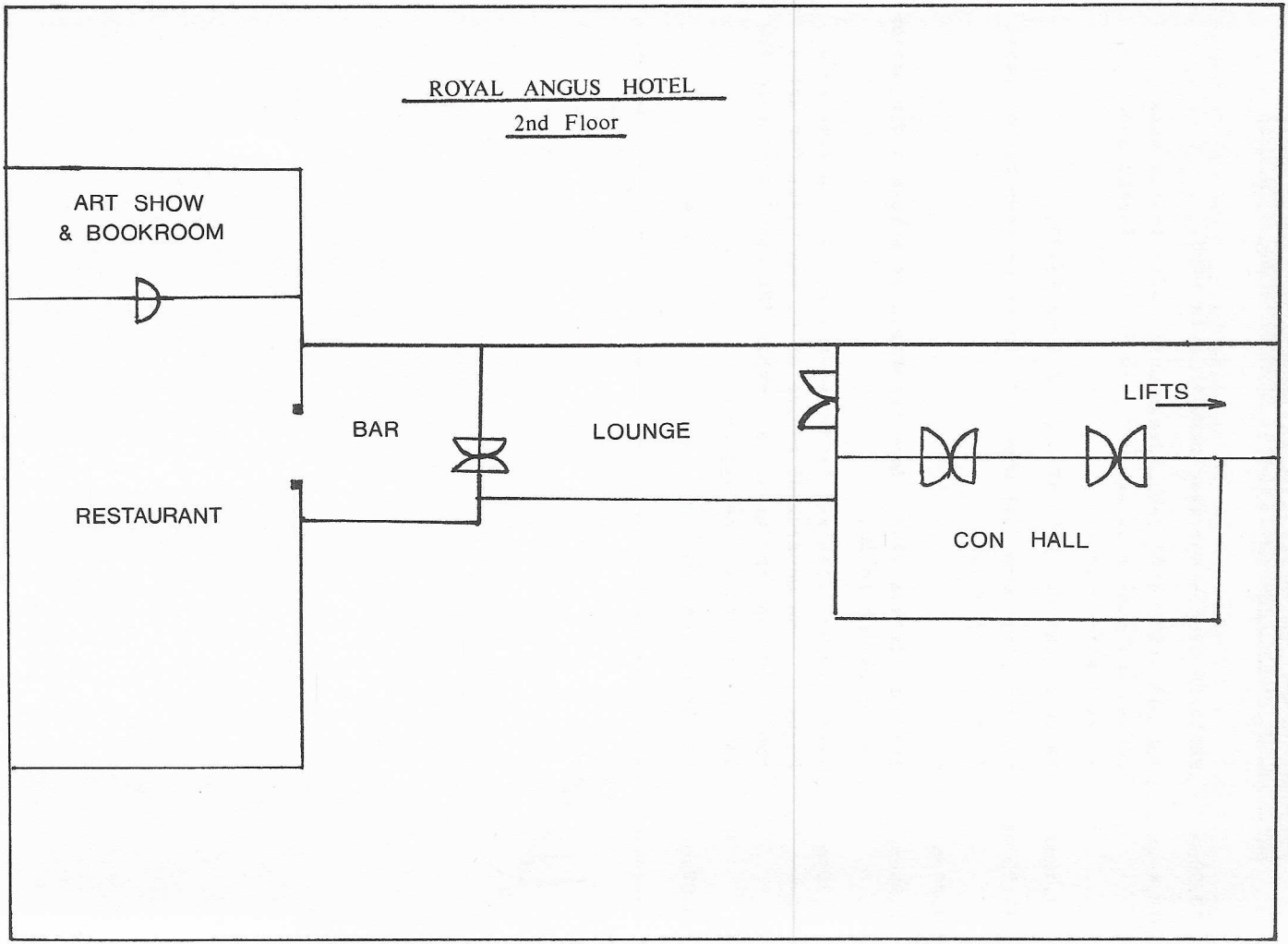
SATURDAY

9.30am	DOES THE PANEL THINK? Questions from the floor will be put to the panel consisting of Ken Bulmer, Bob Shaw, Andrew Stephenson and Ramblin' Jake. Chaired by Hazel Reynolds.
10.30am	Coffee Break
11.00am	ASPECTS OF FRUSTRATION - Guest of Honour, Dan Morgan will address the convention after which the audience may ask questions.
12.30pm	Lunch
2.30pm	SHORT SCIENCE FICTION FILMS selected and shown by Philip Strick. Among the films shown will be Richard Corben's animated sword & sorcery film - NEVERWHERE.
4.30pm	Tea Break. Refreshments served in the lounge.
4.45pm	THE GRAND AUCTION conducted by Rog Peyton. Includes many rare collector's items.
7.30pm for 8.00pm	THE BANQUET. Toastmaster - Dave Kyle. (TICKETS ONLY)
8.00pm	FILMS: 1. FIEND WITHOUT A FACE starring Marshall Thompson, Kim Parker & Kynaston Reeves. Spine-chiller with a great climax of a giant reactor out of control. Recommended by Philip Strick. 2. THE RUNNING JUMPING STANDING STILL FILM starring Spike Milligan.
11.30pm	FANCY DRESS PARADE. Your chance to dress up in a crazy costume.

SUNDAY

10.00am	BRAIN OF BRUM - the ever popular quiz item.
10.45am	THE JIM WHITE CHAT SHOW. James White will invite some Convention guests to sit and talk in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.
11.45am	PRIZE GIVING AND PRESENTATION OF NOVA AWARD.
12.00 noon	ART AUCTION. One last chance to increase your bid on items from the Art Show.
1.00pm	Lunch.
2.30pm	SCIENCE FICTION WARS. John Mansfield organises a discussion on war-gaming in SF.
3.30pm	FILM: ATROGON starring Todao Takashima, Yoko Fujiama & Yu Fujuki. "The underwater empire of Mu has plans for world domination but the great battleship 'Atrogon' stands in its way." (colour in Cinemascope).
5.00pm	END OF CONVENTION

Autographs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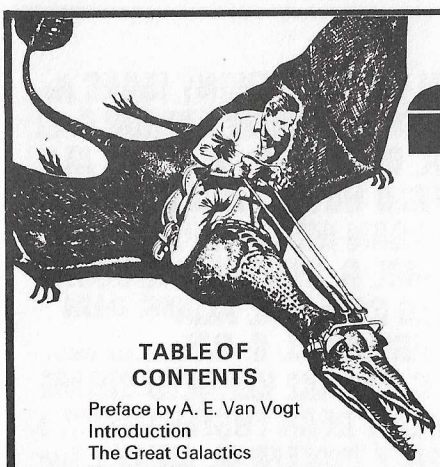

2000 A.D.

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Preface by A. E. Van Vogt

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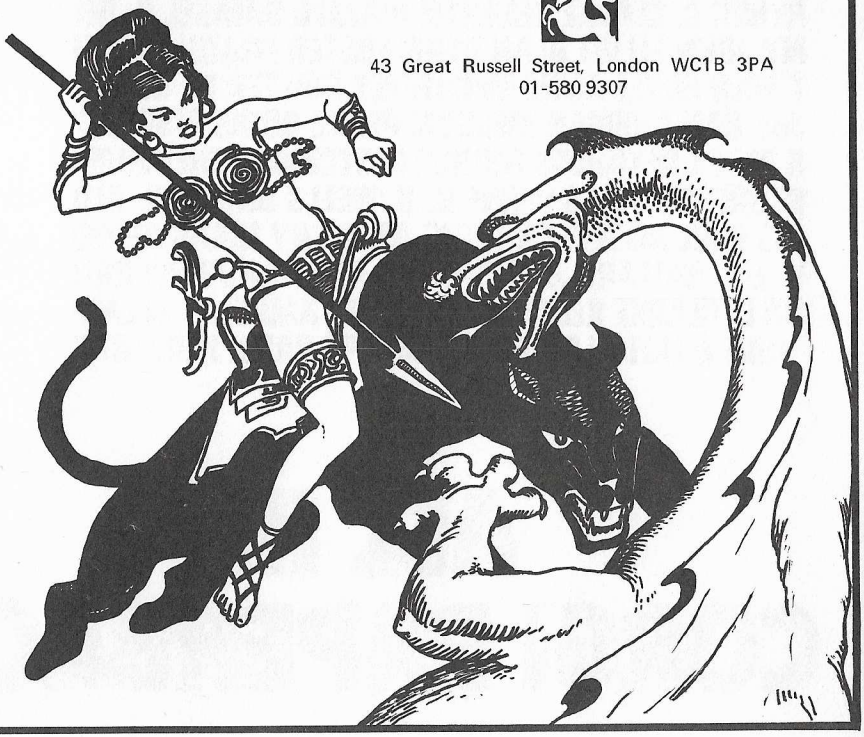

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ALL IN CORGI PAPERBACK

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IN BIRMINGHAM

MEMORANDUM

Ref CONVENTIONS

To All NOVACON Attendees
All NOVACON Supporting Members
c.c. Interested Parties

November 1975

From Vernon Brown,
Pharmacy Department,
Gosta Green.

Tel. Ext. 422

As you probably know, I am British Agent for several SF conventions to be held outside the UK in the near future. These are :-

SFANCON 7.
This is the seventh Belgian National Convention and will be held during July 1976 in Liege, Belgium. As usual, reduced rate rooms will be available and the programme will be tri-lingual in English, French & Flemish. For the third year running a party of British fans will attend the event, many of whom will expand the weekend into a week or two's holiday.

EUROCON III
Held in alternate years, this third European SF Convention will take place in Poznan, Poland, for several days during August 1976. After being held in Trieste, Italy in 1972 and in Grenoble, France in 1974, this convention promises to be the biggest and best yet. There will be a multilingual programme, including English, as well as a full "social calender". Again, a trip/holiday for members is being organised. Numbers attending must be known by Christmas so please register early.

WORLDCON 77.
Looking a little further ahead, the 1977 World Science Fiction Convention is to be held in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. during the month of August. Guest - of - Honor will be Jack Williamson. It is hoped to organise a charter flight and holiday given enough support - which means that arrangements have to be made well in advance.

If you are interested in attending any or all of these conventions, or of becoming a Supporting (non-attending) Member, send me a cheque/P.O. (made out to Vernon Brown), at the above address, for 50p per con and I will send you full information about the event, details of travel costs, holiday arrangements etc.. This money will also count against your convention Membership.

Enjoy yourself at NOVACON, send me your money as soon as poss if you are interested and don't forget

BRITAIN IS FINE IN 79 BRITAIN IS FINE IN 79 BRITAIN IS FINE IN 79 BRITAIN IS FINE IN 79

WORDS: VERA JOHNSON
MUSIC: TRADITIONAL
(HOME, BOYS, HOME)

TIME, BOYS, TIME

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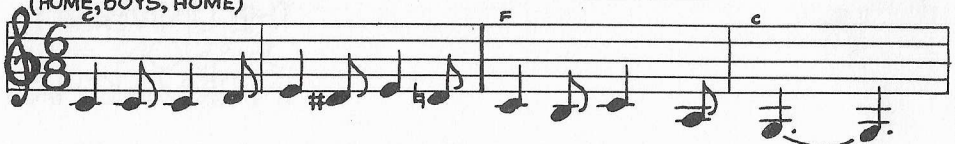

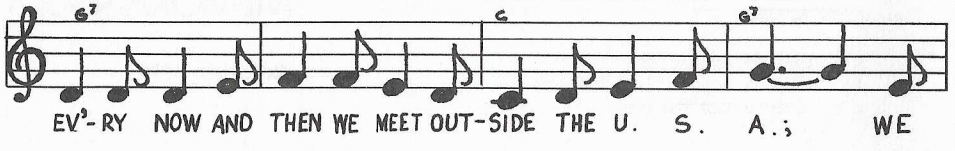

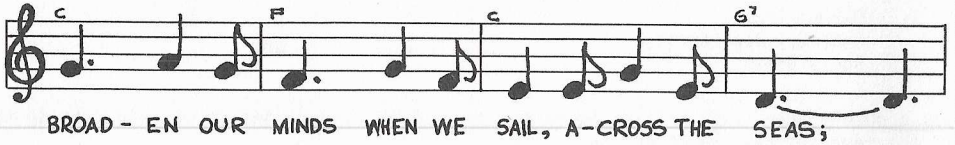

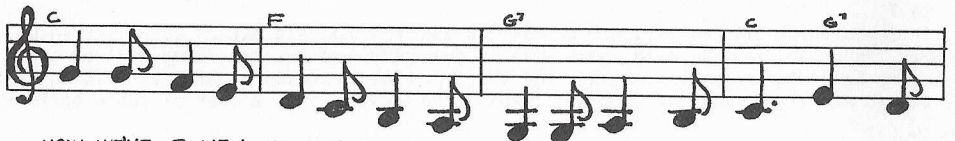

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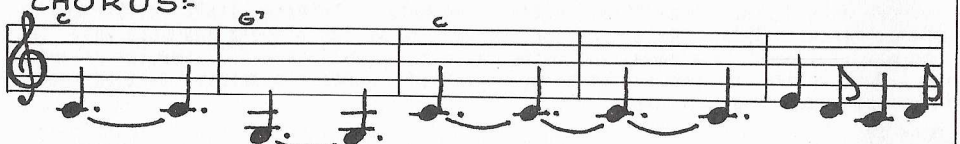

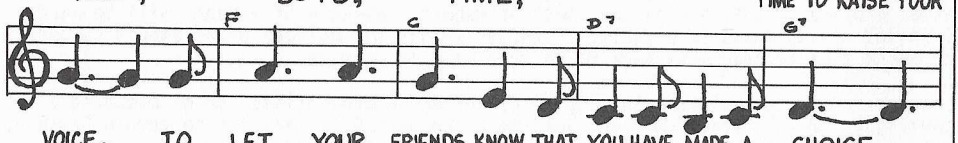

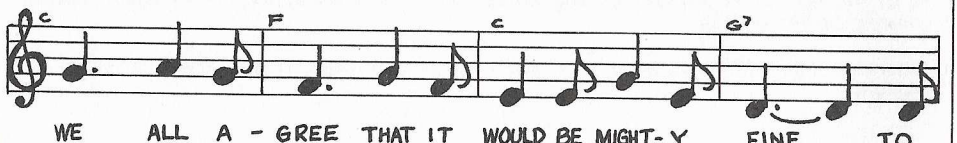

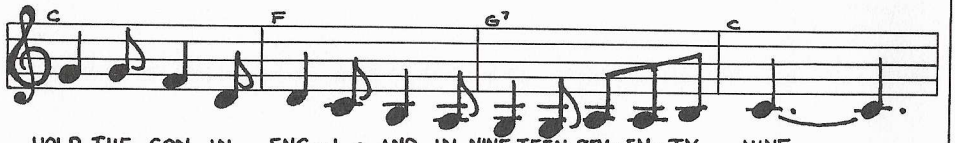

"TIME, BOYS, TIME"

1. Once a year we gather and we drink and talk and play,
   Ev'ry now and then we meet outside the U.S.A.,
   We broaden our minds when we sail across the seas,
   Now we've even ventured out to the Antipodes.

CHORUS: And it's time, boys, time,
Time to raise your voice,
And let your friends know,
That you have made a choice;
We all agree that it would be mighty fine,
To hold the Con in England in 1979.

2. When you come to England you can punt along the Thames,
   Walk around the Tower to inspect the Royal gems,
   Try the lager and the ale, the scrumpy and the stout,
   Guzzle double whiskeys 'till the landlord throws you out.

3. You can see the Palace and the changing of the guard,
   Learn to count in Pounds and Pence— it isn't very hard,
   Order Guinness, Black-and-Tan, a bitter or a mild,
   Swallow down Newcastle Brown until it drives you wild.

4. You can have a dart game at a real old English pub,
   Eat a Ploughman's lunch there— it's not like the Playboy club,
   Try a lime and lager or a spot of gin-and-it,
   Once you start to knock them back you never want to quit.

5. You can wander farther, up to Scotland or to Wales,
   See the rolling hills of Devon and the Yorkshire dales,
   Visit France or Ireland or Jersey, if you choose,
   Or stay right in the Con hotel with good old British booze.

WORDS: Vera Johnson.
MUSIC: Traditional (Home, Boys, Home.)
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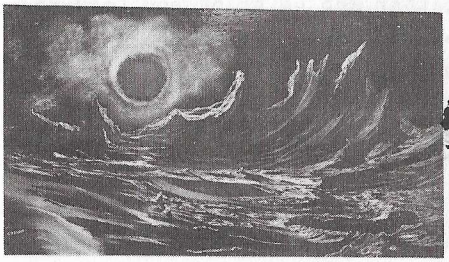

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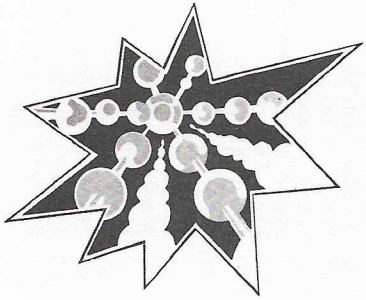

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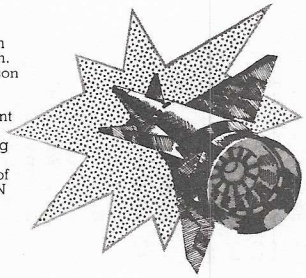

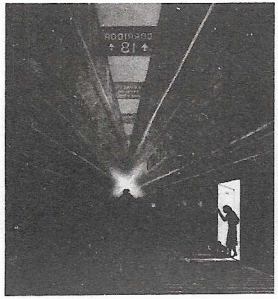

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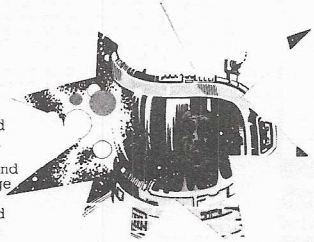

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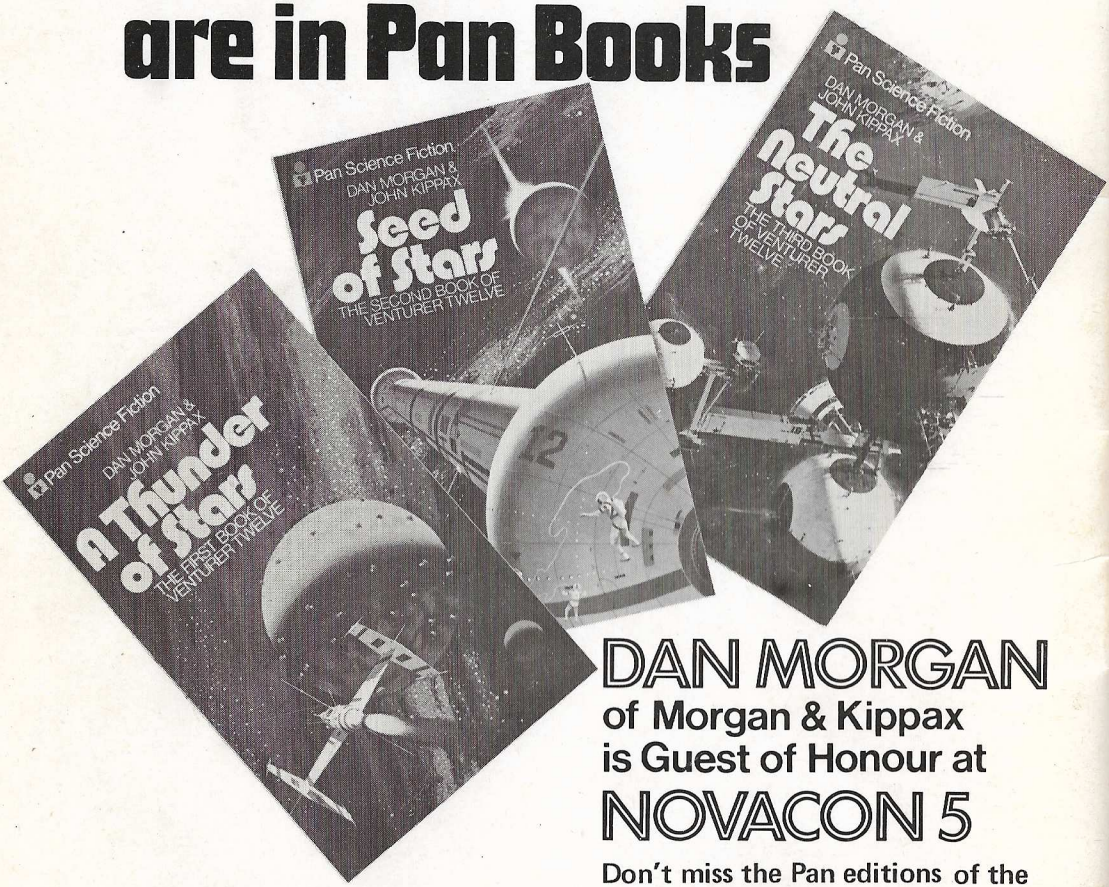

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